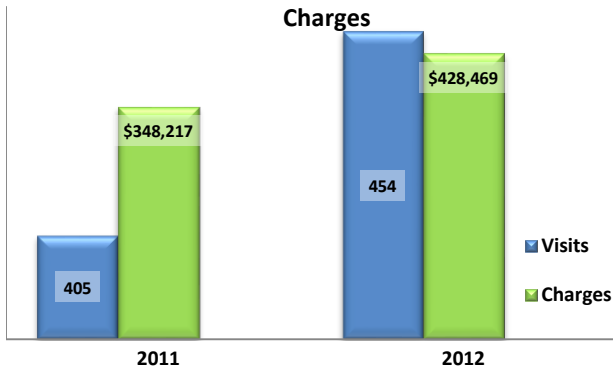


**Emergency Department Dental Visits & Charges**

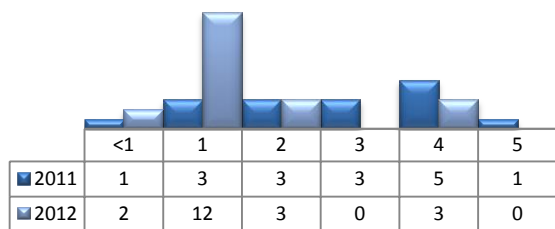


Ambulatory Care Sensitive oral health conditions (ACS) are those considered largely avoidable with adequate prevention and primary care. The use of hospital emergency departments – among the most expensive form of medical care – for the treatment of ACS conditions may indicate lack of access to primary dental care. Among the reasons Floridians do not receive regular preventive care include lack of dental coverage for adult Medicaid patients, lack of private-practice dentists willing to accept Medicaid's low payment rates, lack of county health department resources, lack of affordable dental insurance or inability to meet high co-pays, and lack of awareness of the importance of dental health to overall health.

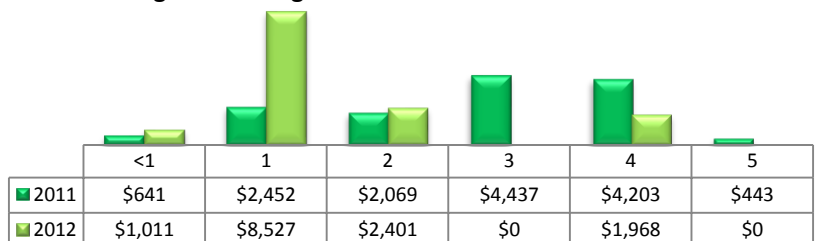
Floridians absorb the cost of Medicaid and uninsured ER dental visits in several ways including higher health insurance premiums and healthcare costs, increased tax dollars needed to fund the state Medicaid program, increased local tax dollars to support local public hospitals, and lost productivity.

Visits by Payor & Age						Charges by Payor & Age					
	0-19	19-34	35-49	50-64	65+		0-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>2011</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>46,095</b>	<b>144,949</b>	<b>102,831</b>	<b>36,387</b>	<b>17,955</b>
Medicaid/Managed	33	40	20	7	0	Medicaid/Managed	22,084	26,647	24,041	4,606	-
Commercial	6	21	15	8	0	Commercial	6,196	20,844	13,540	6,062	-
Self-Pay/Uninsured	8	117	60	20	2	Self-Pay/Uninsured	14,553	89,146	51,732	21,310	887
Medicare/Managed	0	3	10	5	14	Medicare/Managed	-	2,221	6,310	3,063	17,068
All Other	1	7	5	3	0	All Other	3,262	6,091	7,208	1,346	-
<b>2012</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>44,325</b>	<b>183,958</b>	<b>119,473</b>	<b>59,442</b>	<b>21,271</b>
Medicaid/Managed	35	56	18	13	0	Medicaid/Managed	31,630	38,434	12,670	13,526	-
Commercial	6	18	17	8	0	Commercial	6,659	17,857	17,364	10,057	-
Self-Pay/Uninsured	9	126	78	22	1	Self-Pay/Uninsured	5,704	121,566	71,034	24,519	663
Medicare/Managed	0	2	11	5	14	Medicare/Managed	-	1,508	14,559	4,372	20,608
All Other	1	5	7	2	0	All Other	332	4,593	3,846	6,968	-

**Visits for Young Children for Preventable Conditions**



**Charges for Young Children for Preventable Conditions**



**Highest ED Dental ACS Visits by Zip Code**

Zip Code	2011		2012	
	Visits	Charges	Visits	Charges
33040	233	242,926	233	257,658
33050	52	39,414	50	37,519
33037	51	26,370	58	47,162
33070	22	11,483	40	20,197
33043	18	10,205	23	23,894
33036	12	6,545	18	12,686
33042	12	8,543	23	23,957
33041	2	1,346	2	1,364
33052	1	393	-	0

**Policy Indicators**

Indicators to consider in shaping policies to increase the overall health of Floridians while decreasing costs to the state's healthcare system:

- High numbers of Medicaid patients visiting the ER for ACS dental problems suggest a lack of access to dentists or oral healthcare clinics accepting Medicaid for both preventative care and for treatment.
- ER visits during the regular work day and traditional business hours, combined with ACS diagnoses, suggest visits being made to the ER in lieu of a clinic or dental office.
- Rates of adult tooth decay are higher in older adults yet patients aged 20 to 34 years comprise the largest segment of ER visits, suggesting that lack of dental insurance or an inability to meet high co-pays is driving such visits.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Emergency Room Database, Florida Agency on Health Care Administration

<sup>2</sup> Ambulatory care sensitive dental conditions, i.e. "preventable condition," are based on the ICD-9 (International Classification of Diseases, 9th Edition) codes from the published work of Dr. John Billings [http://wagner.nyu.edu/files/admissions/acs\\_codes.pdf](http://wagner.nyu.edu/files/admissions/acs_codes.pdf).